

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1-12 are independent. In light of the remarks made herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 5-6 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by *Susai et al.* (USP 6,411,986) and rejected claims 3-4 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Susai et al.* in view of *Packer* (USP 5,802,106). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Examiner Interview

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the Interview conducted on August 9, 2005. During the Interview, the parties discussed the teachings of *Susai et al.* The parties agreed that *Susai et al.* fails to anticipate claims 1-2, 5-6 and 12 and that Applicant's arguments included in the Reply filed April 14, 2005, regarding the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection were persuasive.

Based upon the agreement made during the Interview, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the outstanding rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that upon withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, the application is in proper form for allowance.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Terrell C. Birch, #19,382 #29271

TCB/CMV/mmi
0965-0343P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000